



Road Readiness

NETS 1998 Planner



COPY FOR YOUR EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Being Prepared Saves More Than Time

You wouldn't head off to work, a meeting or a big presentation without being prepared. Yet, every day, people head out onto the road unprepared in many different ways and never give it a second thought. They should, because not being ready for the trip ahead or not being alert to signs, signals and pavement markings could endanger their lives and the lives of others. Staying safe is all a matter of being "road ready."

Being road ready means ensuring your car is ready to go by checking gas and fluid levels, tire inflation and tread depth, and having your car maintained on a regular basis. These are easy things you can do to prevent breakdowns and potentially dangerous situations.

It means making sure you're prepared for an emergency. Always inform someone of your route and arrival time. Keep your trunk stocked with essential items such as flares, jumper cables, tools, a blanket, a first aid kit and a flashlight.

Road readiness is also about being physically and mentally prepared to drive. Make sure everyone is buckled up and children under 12 are properly secured in the back seat. Travel well rested, drive courteously and share the road safely with pedestrians, large vehicles, motorcycles and bikes. And, of course, never drink and drive!

Being fully prepared also includes knowing the meaning of and obeying road signs, signals and pavement markings. They not only inform you of the laws, but also help identify routes and sites, and warn of conditions that may require extra caution.

It's been a while since you studied for your driver's license. Chances are, you've forgotten a bit. You're not alone! In a study conducted by Kansas State University, 82.4% of drivers surveyed confused the School Crossing sign with the School Zone sign. It can be a deadly mistake. If you think you may need a refresher course, contact your

local Department of Transportation or Motor Vehicle Administration.

No matter how long or short the trip, make sure you're always "road ready" by completing the following checklist before you leave.

ARE YOU ROAD READY?

Here's a checklist of things to remember before you take your car on the road.

Before you leave, make sure you:

- fill your tank with gas
- check all fluids, belts and hoses
- test air pressure and tread depth of tires
- tell a friend or family member what route you're taking and what time you're expected to arrive
- have clear directions and a map of your route

What you should carry with you in case of an emergency:

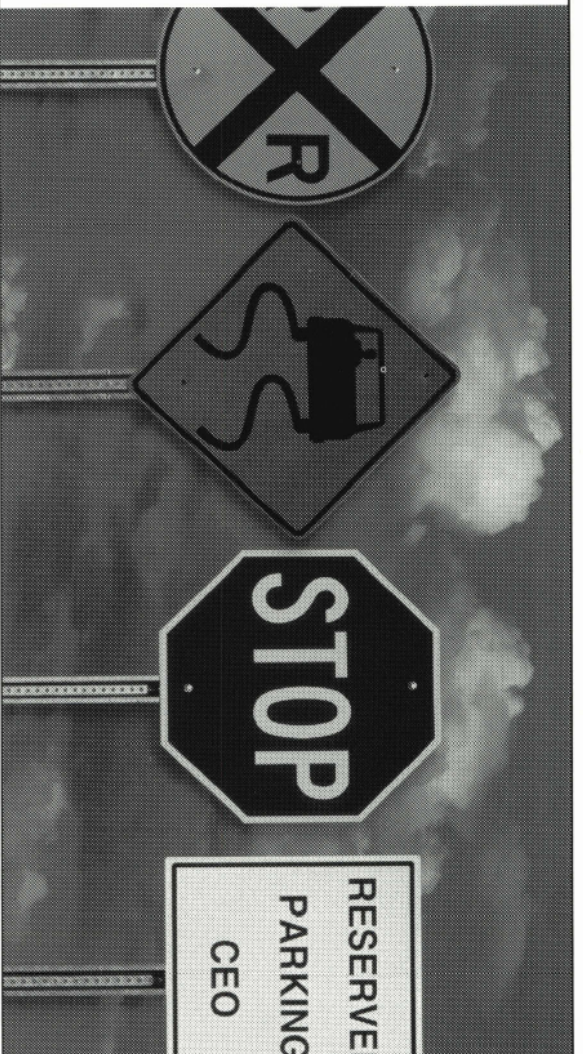
- flashlight with fresh batteries
- flares or reflectors
- first aid kit
- basic tool kit (screwdriver, wrench, hammer)
- spare tire and jack
- can of motor oil
- spare change
- jumper cables
- car owner's manual

How you can avoid your own breakdown when on the road:

- give yourself enough time to get to your destination — don't speed
- buckle up and put children in the back seat in safety seats, if appropriate
- be well rested and relaxed
- drive sober
- share the road safely with large vehicles by not following too closely and staying out of blind spots
- drive courteously
- watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists

Ignoring which of these signs will cause you the most bodily harm?

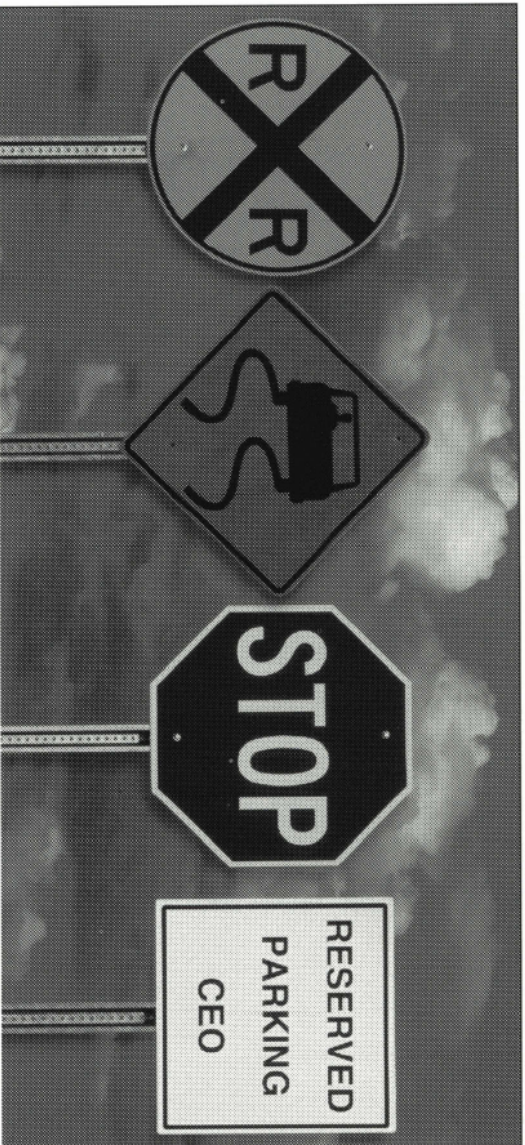
So what's the cost of ignoring rules and regulations at work? Your boss's approval? Your next promotion? Your job? That's nothing compared to the price you can pay if you don't follow signs and signals on the road.



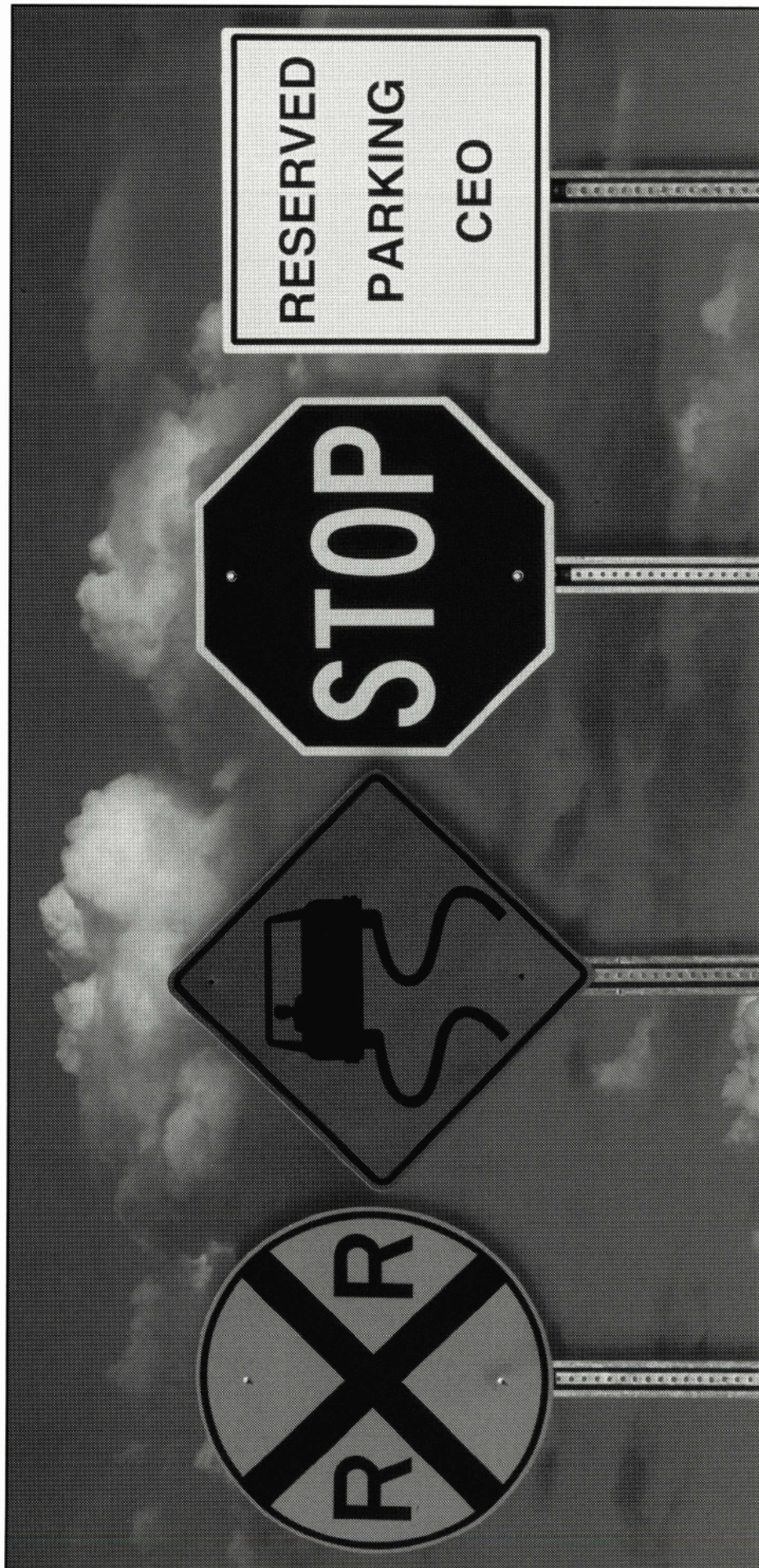
8" X 3" PAYCHECK STUFFER

Ignoring which of these signs will cause you the most bodily harm?

Ignoring rules and regulations at work can be a costly mistake. But it's nothing compared to the price you'll pay if you don't follow signs and signals on the road.



6" X 3.625" AD



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So what's the cost of ignoring rules and regulations at work? Your boss's approval? Your next promotion? Your job? That's nothing compared to the price you can pay if you don't follow signs and signals on the road.

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For Traffic Safety

ROAD READINESS

Taking the Safe Route

This NETS Road Readiness Planner was created to remind your employees to be ready for the road every time they get behind the wheel. We want your employees to realize that just as it is imperative to be prepared for work and understand company rules, it is equally important to be fully prepared when they embark on a trip. And you can help. Obviously, you can't get in the car and drive with your employees, but you can help ensure that they are "road ready" before they start their trips.

Being road ready means more than just having enough gas in the tank. In addition to checking to make sure the car is ready for the trip, there are other things your employees need to consider. Are they in the right frame of mind? Are they prepared to handle unexpected situations such as breakdowns, emergencies or getting lost? Do they understand the meaning of road signs, signals and pavement markings?

In this planner, you'll find the facts and materials you need to help your employees understand the importance of being road ready. Included are camera-ready artwork for ads, flyers and paycheck stuffers; an article, a road readiness checklist and cartoons for your company newsletter; a road sign quiz; and a variety of easy and fun ways to emphasize the road ready message around your office.

Feel good about what you're doing. By using the materials in this planner, you are helping your employees, their families and your company. Not only are you assisting your employees in getting to and from destinations safely, but you are also teaching them to set positive examples for their children. By

reminding them to exhibit excellent driving behavior, you are helping to protect the drivers of tomorrow. Lastly, preventing on- or off-the-job crashes should be a priority for your company, as employee crashes can have enormous emotional and financial costs.

Start spreading the message! If you have any questions about these materials or how to use them, or would like to provide suggestions for future planners, please feel free to contact your state coordinator, the NETS National staff at 202-452-6005, or visit the NETS website at **www.trafficsafety.org**. Thank you for taking the time and the effort to be a part of the NETS program. Keep up the good work!

PUT YOUR SAFE DRIVING IDEAS ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY.

Please take a moment to tell us about the traffic safety programs or policies that your company has instituted, or any great ideas that you may have on improving roadway safety for your employees. We will select the best policies, programs and ideas from the responses received and post them on our website. You may also wish to promote your efforts to improve traffic safety within your community. For assistance in doing this, contact NETS National.

Fax today to **(202) 223-7012** or e-mail us at **nets@trafficsafety.org**.

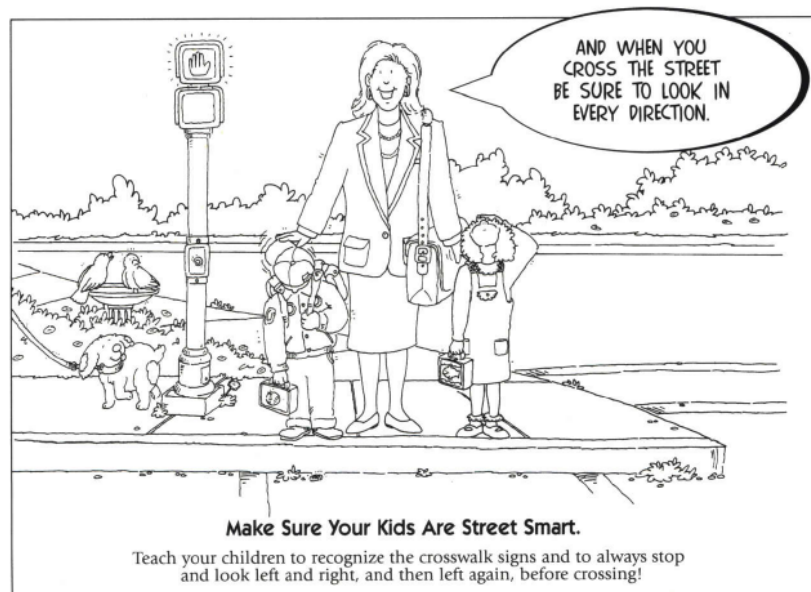
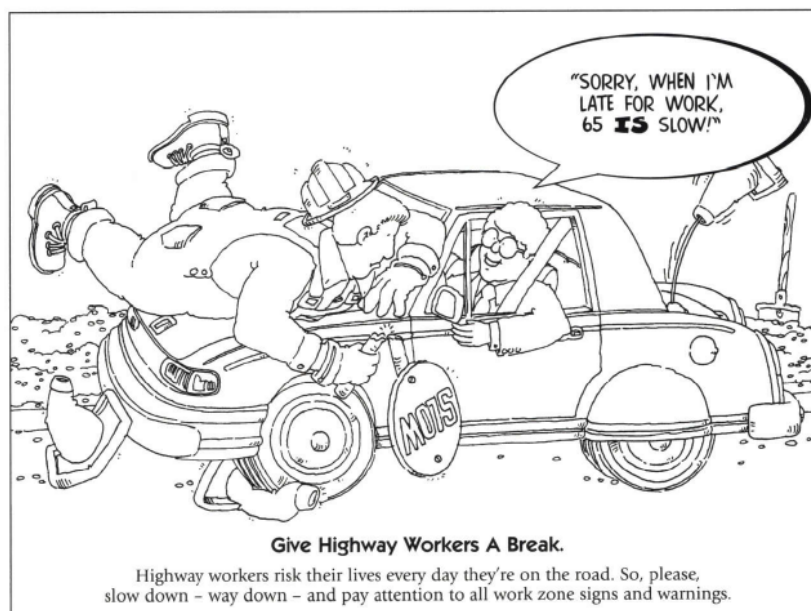
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS?

1. What is the meaning of this sign?
 
 - a. Stop when you see this sign.
 - b. Prepare to stop ahead.
 - c. At the next stop sign, you must go straight after you stop.
2. If you are driving in the left lane, what is the meaning of this sign?
 
 - a. There are narrow lanes ahead.
 - b. There is a one-lane road ahead.
 - c. There are fewer lanes ahead and traffic on your right will move into your lane.
3. What is the meaning of this sign?
 
 - a. Divided highway ends.
 - b. Divided highway ahead.
 - c. Watch for objects in the roadway ahead.
4. What is the meaning of this sign?
 
 - a. The roadway ahead curves to the right, then back to the left.
 - b. The roadway is slippery when wet.
 - c. Be prepared for a winding road ahead.
5. What does this sign tell you to do?
 
 - a. You must always slow down before entering the intersection.
 - b. You may enter the intersection if it is safe to do so; otherwise, you must stop or slow down until it is safe.
 - c. You must stop at the intersection before you enter it.
6. What is the meaning of this sign?
 
 - a. Move into the far right lane.
 - b. Watch for objects in the roadway ahead.
 - c. The roadway ahead is divided. Stay to the right of the island or barrier.
7. What is the meaning of the dashed white line in the center of a one-way road?
 
 - a. You are allowed to change lanes.
 - b. You are not allowed to change lanes.
8. What does a steady, yellow "X" lane signal indicate?
 
 - a. The lane can be used, with caution, for left-turn maneuvers only.
 - b. You many drive in this lane, but you must drive slowly.
 - c. You should move out of the lane because it will soon be controlled by a red "X."
9. What does the flashing yellow light tell you?
 
 - a. Reduce speed and use caution while proceeding through the intersection.
 - b. Stop. After stopping, proceed with caution if there is no cross traffic.
 - c. It is safe to proceed through the intersection.

Answers: 1) a 2) b 3) c 4) a 5) b 6) c 7) a 8) c 9) a

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Several questions provided courtesy of Kansas State University.



IDEAS TO TRY

- Use the signs, signals and pavement markings quiz in this planner.
 - Enlarge it and post it in your kitchen or break room.
 - Use the quiz as a contest. Enter everyone who answers questions correctly into a drawing to win a prize such as a weekend getaway, a paid day off, or a free lunch.
- Distribute traffic safety information that employees can keep in their cars. The Federal Highway Administration has a useful guide online called *Read Your Road*. For more information on *Read Your Road*, visit the Federal Highway Administration's website at www.ohs.fhwa.dot.gov/ryr/index.html.
- Use the road readiness checklist in this planner as a paycheck stuffer, or have supervisors hand it out to employees who are leaving for vacation or long road trips.
- Develop computer screen savers that display different road readiness messages throughout the day. Here are some examples:
 - Don't get into a jam. Make sure you and your car are "road ready."
 - Take the safe route—obey traffic signs, signals and markings.
- Invite employees to submit their stories of how being road ready helped to make a trip easier. Showcase the best story in your employee newsletter and present the winner with a prize. Encourage your CEO to support the road readiness message by donating his or her parking spot to the winner for a month.
- Include a line at the bottom of vacation or travel-related office memos reminding employees about the importance of knowing the rules of the road.
- Help your employees better understand the meaning of traffic signs and signals by placing pictures of certain signs and signals in appropriate places in the office. For example, place a divided roadway sign in a hallway where there is a large item, such as a file cabinet, dividing the pathway; or post a stop sign at a busy hallway intersection.
- Start a "Road Readiness Week" at your office during peak vacation periods. Use the posters, ads, cartoons and newsletter article in this planner to help get the message across.
- Always remember to promote messages from previous planners such as "buckle up," "don't drink and drive," "observe the speed limit," and "drive courteously." For more information on these issues, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.